



HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information (PHI) to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations (TPO) and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information. "Protected health information" is information about you, including demographic information, that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services. This notice will take effect on April 1st, 2014 and will remain in effect until we replace it.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information

Your protected health information may be used and disclosed by your physician, our office staff and others outside of our office that are involved in your care and treatment for the purpose of providing health care services to you, to pay your health care bills, to support the operation of the physician's practice, and any other use required by law.

Treatment: We may use and disclose your protected health information to other physicians or health care providers that are providing care to you in order to coordinate and manage your health care and any related services.

Payment: Your protected health information may be used to obtain payment for services we provide to you. For example, obtaining approval for a necessary procedure may require that your relevant protected information be disclosed to your medical or dental insurance provider.

Healthcare Operations: We may use or disclose, as needed, your protected health information in order to support the business activities of your physician's practice. These activities include, but are not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities, training of students and staff, licensing, and conducting or arranging for other business activities. In addition, we may use a sign-in sheet at the registration desk where you will be asked to sign your name and indicate your physician. We may also call you by name in the waiting room when your physician is ready to see you. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of an appointment.

We may use or disclose your protected health information in the following situations without your authorization. These situations include, as Required by Law, Public Health issues as required by law, Communicable Diseases, Health Oversight, Abuse or Neglect, Food and Drug Administration requirements, Legal Proceedings, Law Enforcement, Coroners, Funeral Directors, and Organ Donation. Research: Criminal

Activity: Military Activity and National Security: Workers' Compensation. Inmates: Required Uses and Disclosure: Under the law, we must make disclosures to you and when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with requirements of Section 164.500.

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures will be made only with your consent, authorization or opportunity to object unless required by law. You may revoke this authorization at any time, in writing, except to the extent that your physician or the physician's practice has taken an action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

PATIENT RIGHTS

Access: You have the right to view or receive copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request to the extent that we can practically do so. (You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information by using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and staff time. If you request copies, we will charge you \$5.00 without x-rays and \$10.00 if x-rays are requested. If you request an alternative format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your health information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.)

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than: treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we reserve the right to charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

Restriction: You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will honor our agreement unless an emergency situation arises that prohibits us from doing so.

Alternative Communication: You have the right to request (you must make your request in writing) that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. Your request must specify the alternative means or location and provide satisfactory explanation as to how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your health information. (Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended.) We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

If you receive this Notice electronically, you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your health information or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may address your complaint using the following contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You may also submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact Person: Marissa VanHerwynen

Telephone: 864-585-8558 **Address:** 763 E. Main St., Spartanburg, SC 29302